



Department of Justice

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HOGSETT ANNOUNCES SENTENCING OF TWO MORE TERRE HAUTE METHAMPHETAMINE TRAFFICKERS

PRESS RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS - Joseph H. Hogsett, United States Attorney, announced at a press conference today that Michael D. Weir, 36, and Bradley S. Shelton, 34, both of Terre Haute, were sentenced by U.S. District Judge Jane E. Magnus-Stinson to life in prison following their convictions at trial for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. In addition, Shelton was convicted of a separate count of distribution of methamphetamine. Both Weir and Shelton were a part of the Wesley Hammond trafficking organization that operated in the Terre Haute area from November, 2009 through March, 2010.

"Today's sentencings bring us one step closer to closing the book on the Wesley Hammond organization," Hogsett said. "With these convictions, we have sent a powerful message that drug trafficking in our neighborhoods will not be tolerated, and these serious crimes carry serious punishments."

Weir distributed methamphetamine in and around Terre Haute for D.J. Pitts, a principal distributor for the Hammond trafficking organization. Pitts distributed approximately one-half pound of methamphetamine from November, 2009 through March, 2010. Pitts was one of nine defendants convicted at trial on March 15, 2011, and he was sentenced to 35 years in prison.

Shelton distributed methamphetamine in and around Terre Haute for Wesley Hammond. Hammond, an inmate at the New Castle Correctional Facility, used a cellular telephone in prison to coordinate the transportation and distribution of drugs in and around Terre Haute. Wesley Hammond was also sentenced to life imprisonment earlier this year.

All told, the break-up of the Hammond drug trafficking operation has now resulted in 29 convictions or guilty pleas. Including today's sentencings, prosecutions by the United States Attorney's Office have produced five life sentences (Weir, Shelton, Wesley Hammond, Antrio Hammon, and Herbert Phipps). In addition, David J. Pitts, Jwuan Moreland, and Susie Smith all received substantial prison terms for their actions. The final sentencing in this case is scheduled for next week.

The prosecution was the result of an investigation directed by the Drug Enforcement Administration. Other law enforcement agencies that participated in the investigation included the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the United States Marshal's Service, Vigo County Drug Task Force, Indiana State Police, and other local law enforcement agencies.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Bradley A. Blackington prosecuted the case for the government.

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